

CUMORAH MONTHLY BULLETIN

South African Mission
of

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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FRIENDSHIP

By Elsie C. Carroll

I did not know what friendship meant
Till trouble came to me;
I did not know the many ways
That friends could friendly be.

I did not know how many hands
Would help me bear my cross;
I did not know how many hearts
Would sorrow at my loss.

I did not know the blessedness
Of just a word; a tear;
The pressure of a hand; a sigh;
The silent standing near

And breathing just a little prayer
That shines from out the eyes;
Of just a written line of hope; --
All these I've learned to prize.

And I have learned the world can't be
As empty as it seems,
When all one's love and joy are dead.
The light of friendship gleams.

And like a little torch it sheds
A halo in the dark --
A radiance that warms and spreads
Until it strikes a spark.

Within the soul made desolate,
On humble knees I bend
And pray that I may learn to be
In times of need -- a friend!
(The Relief Society Magazine)

"WHO MAY BEAR THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD?"

This is a subject which frequently confronts the Elders of the South African Mission, and though it has been explained in an article published in the "Cumorah Monthly Bulletin", there are those who imagine they can see an injustice in the doctrine: that some people are not permitted to receive the Holy Priesthood.

Inasmuch as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints claims ~~to teach~~ the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with a God-given organization, and this fancied injustice causes doubts to arise in the minds of some, I will endeavour to further explain our point of view.

The Laws Of Heaven Are Perfect

I realize, and freely admit, that until we can sincerely accept Joseph Smith as the Prophet of God, having a testimony of his divine Mission as a Restorer, many of his teachings are hard to receive and plumb with some of the traditions we have been taught for many centuries.

The Gospel plan, as received and taught by the Prophet Joseph, is entire and complete. There is no jot or tittle which can be set aside as being of no consequence, or as being a religious and empty ritual. There are several symbolical ordinances which must be performed in faith and truth: such as the Baptism by water for the remission of sins, and the partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's supper in sincere reverence as a token that we do always remember Him, that we may have his spirit to be with us; also covenants made: such as marriage. These ordinances and covenants constitute the laws of heaven and are therefore perfect.

Obedience is required of us

The crucial test applied to any doctrine taught by the prophet Joseph Smith and quite frequently brought to our notice in the revelations he received, is as follows: "There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated -- And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated." Doctrine and Covenants 130:20,21.

If the laws upon which all blessings are predicated were decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, and are only awarded upon obedience: it is most reasonable to believe that we were subject to certain conditions and laws then, as now.

It would be contradictory to say: "God required of us obedience to His divine laws in heaven", unless we enjoyed our free agency

to reject his counsel or disobey his laws in heaven as we do here.

When this truth is clearly accepted by us, it is very much easier to understand all that is meant in the Gospel teachings regarding: The War in Heaven, The Fall of Adam and Eve, The Redemption of the race through the death of Jesus Christ, Why one people are chosen in preference to another to bear the Holy Priesthood, Why the necessity of Divine Authority to act in the things of God, Why temple ordinances have been graciously revealed and permitted, in full -- why man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.

These things we could never have known in mortality unless God had been pleased to reveal them, and this he promised "to do before the world began, for it is through obedience that our eternal life depends.

There was nothing left to chance, for we read that God foreknew and chose certain spirits who should be his prophets in the flesh before they were born. But curious to relate that very few have been accepted by man while they dwelt in the flesh, but were stoned and killed; but be assured: God has not rejected his prophets nor exonerated the people from obedience to their word because they did not believe or receive them.

We who have received a testimony, do assuredly know that those who reject Joseph Smith, God's appointed prophet, Seer and Revelator to this dispensation, through wicked and wilful prejudice, will do so to their own condemnation because his words and works testify of him.

The World must be Taught by Prophets of God

Before I endeavour to deduce evidence from the Scriptures to show why the Holy Priesthood is not conferable upon the whole human race, I desire to call attention to the declaration of the Scriptures, that we must endeavour to place ourselves in harmony with the Spirit of God and the prophets before we can know His divine plan or intelligently believe the doctrine which they teach us.

We should learn that since the days of Adam all faith has been engendered by being taught by the prophets of God. Even those whom God foreknew and were foreordained to be prophets of God before the world began, were taught by the prophets who preceded them.

The things of God can only be known by the spirit of God, and the spirit of prejudice is not of God. We must seek to honour the prophets of God or we can never prosper in our search for truth.

Paul addressing the Corinthians in regard to his knowledge of the things of God, said: "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have

entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." 1 Corinthians 3:1-2.

If we will examine ourselves carefully we shall find that in the commencement of our christian life we are much like all others before us have been, and have need for much patience and teaching. We will see that we have to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ as little children, that is: we must grow in knowledge and understanding of the things of God, line upon line, and precept upon precept, for it is difficult for many of us to digest all Gospel truths readily when first presented to us.

The Saviour found his disciples just as hard to teach; sometimes they withdrew because his doctrines were hard to understand. He said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:12-14.

Paul had occasion to tell the Hebrews the same things: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Hebrews 5:12-14.

For about seventeen hundred years heavy darkness has covered the mind of the people, for we have not had prophets of God to lead us. But now God has again opened the heavens and declared: "Ask and ye shall receive; Knock and it shall be opened unto you."

Therefore it behooves us not to come under the same severe

criticism as expressed by the risen Lord to the two disciples as they walked together on their way to Emmaus, when he said: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken," for if we search the scriptures today with a prayerful desire to know the truth of that which the prophet Joseph Smith has spoken, instead of carelessly ignoring his counsel, we shall feel the joy which the two disciples declared when they afterwards exclaimed: "Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Many of us who have made it a matter of very earnest prayer to know if Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet of God, can testify in soberness and truth that our hearts do burn within us as his teachings unfold to us the Scriptures.

God has not decreed that man by searching nature shall discern His divine plan or comprehend His glory; they are withheld and revealed to those only who are heirs thereto by obedience to the laws of adoption.

The Scriptures clearly declare that some of the prophets were chosen before they were born, to receive his word and teach others. One has said: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secrets to his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.

Some may ask: "Why does not God declare from the heavens the man whom he hath chosen for his prophet, that all may know him instead of leaving the people in doubt and have them stone and kill him?"

Why does not God instruct his prophets to write in such language that all who read may understand, and avoid this terrible confusion?

This has been so ordained by the fore-knowledge and wisdom of God. It requires the spirit and light of a prophet to understand the prophets, and God has decreed that we shall be taught by those who enjoy the spirit of prophecy.

If God made His eternal purposes so plainly known that the wicked could perceive, as well as those who fear him, then faith could not be developed and without faith it is impossible to please God. Where no effort is required, there can be no progress. The wicked would understand the merciful plan of God and become hardened and ripened in iniquity to their utter destruction, instead of a tried and proven people upon whom the mercy of God had operated.

The man who earnestly desires to be enlightened by the spirit of God will be able to discern truth when it is taught him. He will be able to discern the difference between a true and false prophet of God. He will desire to be taught by the prophets of God. He will search the Scriptures to know the mind and will of God, that he may live in obedience thereto and thus obtain the great gift of eternal life.

The man who wants a religion already digested and dished up for him in daily prayers and readings and so insipid that it clashes with nothing he has already nor disagrees with hardly anything his

appetite desires will fail to find the cross he must bear, the battles he must win over his natural tendencies -- thus leaving all the God-like attributes which are essential to the Kingdom of God dormant and undeveloped -- such a religion is not of God.

When we live worthily we are growing, and in due time we will receive the testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer of the World, which testimony is the spirit of prophecy. That is to say: we will know the things of God by the Spirit of God, and be in a condition to teach others, which is in itself prophesying.

Pre-existence Revealed to Abraham

For a detail study of the subject of "Who may bear the Holy Priesthood?" it may prove very helpful to learn what the prophets of God have said regarding the differences which exist among the human race.

In the writings of Abraham, he records the following:- "Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born. And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever. And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first. And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate, and, at that day, many followed after him." Abraham 3:22-28.

A similar revelation was also given to John, while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos, probably referring to the same thing: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:7-9.

Also to Joseph Smith as recorded in the 76th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants: "And this we saw also, and bear record, that

an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled against the Only Begotten Son whom the Father loved and who was in the bosom of the Father, was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son, and was called Perdition, for the heavens wept over him -- he was Lucifer, a son of the morning. And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen, even a son of the morning! And while we were yet in the Spirit, the Lord commanded us that we should write the vision; for we beheld Satan, that old serpent, even the devil, who rebelled against God, and sought to take the kingdom of our God and his Christ."

President Brigham Young commenting on this great vision to the Prophets said:- "When Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, was cast out he came here, and one-third part of the spirits in heaven came with him. Do you suppose that one-third part of all the beings that existed in eternity came with him? No, but one-third part of the spirits that were begotten and organized and brought forth to be cometenants of fleshly bodies to dwell upon this Earth; they forsook Jesus Christ, the rightful heir, and joined with Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, and came to this Earth; they got here first. As soon as Mother Eve made her appearance in the Garden of Eden, the Devil was on hand." (Journal of Discourses, pages 368-9.)

The present condition of the world is the result of a continued state of rebellion since the disobedience of Eve in the Garden of Eden caused by the deceitfulness of him who had been cast out of heaven.

But let us ask ourselves these questions: Were there only just two phases of Loyalty and Rebellion with such a large number of the Spirits of God in heaven?

Judging by our understanding of the spirit of man today: Is it likely that all were intensely loyal or intensely disloyal? or were there different degrees of Rebels, so that some were not actually fighting, and not punished by being cast out of heaven with Lucifer, and thus debarred from the privilege of coming to earth and taking up mortal bodies?

There is then a great probability that there was a judgment in which everyone received a perfect and just reward. For God is just and merciful from eternity to eternity, and those in rebellion, or sulking with a rebellious spirit, received only what was righteous, and the valiant the same.

The authority which they rebelled against was Jesus Christ; His authority and powers lie in his Eternal Priesthood. The most merciful judgment, then, which could be given to those who had defied the authority of the Eternal Priesthood, and at the same time satisfy the demands of justice, was to with-hold from them the right to exercise the authority thereof, or to enjoy some of its privileges until they should prove themselves truly repentant and loyal to him whom they defied.

May we not, therefore, venture to suggest that those are the spirits which have been privileged to come to earth, as the seed of

Cain, that they may thus be given an opportunity of proving themselves and establishing a valiancy for Christ?

We read in Genesis where God spoke with Cain on this wise: "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." (Gen.4:6-7) We may not comprehend all that that means. But when Cain had committed his terrible act of which the Lord had warned him, and God met him again, and pronounced upon him his punishment, it included a banishment from the presence of God. For "Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me." (Gen.4:13,14)

It has been well established that the curse was a with-holding from him and his seed the rights of the Priesthood.

I shall quote President Brigham Young again in this regard as follows:- "The Lamanites, or Indians, are just as much the children of our Father and God as we are. So also are the Africans. But we are also the children of adoption through obedience to the gospel of His Son. Why are so many of the inhabitants of the Earth cursed with a skin of blackness? It comes in consequence of their fathers rejecting the power of the Holy Priesthood, and the law of God. They will go down to death. And when all the rest of the children have received their blessings in the Holy Priesthood, then that curse will be removed from the seed of Cain, and they will then come up and possess the Priesthood, and receive all the blessings which we now are entitled to" (Jour. of Dis., Vol.XI.,p.272).

This throws some light on the words of the Saviour to the Canaanitish Woman, who appeared to be well informed of the condition of her race. I will quote from Matthew 15:21-28:- "Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."

We see by this that the Saviour did not hesitate to declare her condition, and she did not demur but acknowledged the truth and sought and obtained a blessing from him.

It is believed that the wrath of God was kindled against the antediluvians because the sons of God (those who were of the patriarchal order and entitled to bear the Priesthood) intermarried with the seed of Cain in disobedience to His commands and were destroyed in the flood, when only Noah and his family were preserved, with whom God renewed the covenant and continued the Priesthood, requiring the same conditions to exist again between the seed of Ham and his other sons.

We read in the book of Abraham where Pharaoh the grandson of Ham was debared from the Priesthood: "Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal. Pharaoh, being a righteous man, established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the Priesthood. Now, Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not have the right of Priesthood, notwithstanding the Pharaohs would fain claim it from Noah, through Ham, therefore my father was led away by their idolatry; But I shall endeavor, here-after, to delineate the chronology running back from myself to the beginning of the creation, for the records have come into my hands, which I hold unto this present time." Abraham 1:25-28.

To those who have a testimony that Joseph Smith received and translated the writings of Abraham by the power of his prophetic calling, there is no room left for doubt in regard to the seed of Ham not having right to the Priesthood.

We have other Bible history which deals with this matter, and confirms the testimony of Abraham regarding the wisdom and prosperity of Pharaoh while he lived in righteousness before the Lord right down to the time of Joseph.

It was because of the heritage belonging to the seed of Abraham, and not to the Egyptians, that Moses "when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." (Hebrews 11:24-26)

Restriction Continued From Moses To Christ's Time

The life and teachings of Moses, as the great leader and mouth piece of God to Israel, left no doubt as to what God required of the children of Israel after he brought them out of Egypt; nor as to who were the idolatrous nations, with whom they were commanded not to mix.

The decedents of Ham resented, not having right to the Priesthood, and refused to be led and taught by Shem's posterity. They organized a code of religious worship but God did not honour their priests with the revelations of his mind and will. Thus they soon fell into all kinds of abominable idolatry; they ripened in iniquity, and were soon like salt without its savour; therefore the Lord commanded Moses to go forward and take possession of the Land of Canaan and destroy all as he went.

The decedants of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Phut and Canaan, from whose loins came forth those nations which were cursed, the Ninevites, Jebusites, Amorites, Gergasites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites -- were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.

It was a very grievous sin in the sight of God for the children of Israel to intermarry with any of these nations or races, for God commanded them through Moses as follows:- "Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.....For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. Etc." (Deuteronomy 7.)

It was disobedience to this commandment which brought most of the sufferings and distress upon the children of Israel as was clearly foretold by Moses, and lamented by Ezra and Nehemiah, especially so when they were exercising the rights and privileges of the Holy Priesthood.

Nehemiah records: "And of the Priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name. These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. And the Tirshatha (the Governors) said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim." Ne.7:63-65. Read also Ezra 9:10-15; also Neh. 13:23.

Restoration of the Gospel and the Priesthood

In the general Apostacy which took place soon after the death of the Apostles of Jesus Christ in the early Christian era, the Priesthood was withdrawn and the world was left without Prophets of God to teach and lead them, and this continued down until May 15th, 1829, at which time John the Baptist came and restored the Aaronic Priesthood with all its sacred responsibilities and duties as required in this day. A little later, Peter, James and John came and

restored the Keys of the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood.

In conferring the Aaronic Priesthood the Angel John used these words:- "Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness." Doc. and Cov. Sec.13.

He gave no wider privileges to the prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery than were enjoyed by those who held this power previously; and all instructions to him afterward show what solemn responsibilities are connected therewith.

On December 6th, 1832, the following revelation was given:- "Therefore, thus saith the Lord unto you, with whom the priesthood hath continued through the lineage of your fathers -- For ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and have been hid from the world with Christ in God -- Therefore your life and the priesthood have remained, and must needs remain through you and your lineage until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began. Therefore, blessed are ye if ye continue in my goodness, a light unto the Gentiles, and through this priesthood, a savior unto my people Israel. The Lord hath said it. Amen" Doc. and Cov. Section 86:8-11.

The following revelation will explain with what studious and prayerful carefulness the authority of the Holy Priesthood must be exercised:- "That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness. That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man. Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints, and to fight against God." Doc. and Cov. 121:36-38.

It is very true that we sometimes see those who have been called to bear the Holy Priesthood fail very sadly to magnify their office and calling, generally through giving greater attention to those things which are temporal and forgetting the Eternal, or in other words: loving the temporal blessings more than the Giver of them.

This, however, does not reflect upon the wisdom of the one who called, for it is an inestimable privilege to be called to do the smallest service in the Church and Kingdom of God, and if we fail to magnify our calling, however humble, and make our election sure -- we suffer the great loss. It is said: "Many are called, but few are chosen" because they fail to measure up to God's requirements.

We must make our calling and election sure by willingly and gladly using our time, our talents, and all we possess and are to the Glory of God.

Our pathway may lead us through many temptations, disappointments with our brethren, we may have to endure much sorrow and bitterness of heart, but if we endure to the end -- Life Eternal and Godhood is the reward.

If we allow slothfulness and neglect to obey the laws, which God has prescribed for this probation, and harbour doubts and fears regarding the justice of His eternal plan because we are not privileged to comprehend His eternal purposes: it is because we still listen to the rebellious spirits who were cast out, and are still persuading us to rebellion against Him whom God chose to be our Redeemer, Saviour and King, and will bring us condemnation instead of exaltation.

The blessings, the Glory and exaltation which God has prepared for those who live in obedience to his divine laws in mortality were prearranged before the world began, and nothing will hinder us from obtaining them, whether we be black or white, except our own wilful neglect and disobedience to the commands of Jesus Christ, in to whose hands the Father placed all judgment.

I humbly pray that God will implant within our hearts a desire to study the Scriptures as contained in the Bible, The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price, that our doubts may flee and our darkness be turned into light, that "the wayfaring man though a fool need not err therein", and "they also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine." Isaiah 29:24.

--- SAMUEL MARTIN ---

..Mission President..

NOTE:- In consequence of the many inquiries regarding the question "Who May Hold The Priesthood?", President Samuel Martin has written the above article, which we trust will be carefully and prayerfully read by all. Due to the great length of the Article there is insufficient space to publish many other contributions; however, they will be published as space permits in future issues. --T.R.M.--

"A PRAYER"

Give us each day of the spirit of tolerance. May we be kindly disposed one toward another. Help us to esteem ourselves modestly and to esteem our fellows generously. Help us to search diligently for Truth in the fertile places of an open mind; and may we direct our thoughts, our words and our acts only toward good.

(Sugar House Times)

"FAITH AND WORKS"

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

If every religious thinking man and woman of today could read what is already written in the Book of Life, which will be used to judge us according to what we have merited here on earth, I am sure we could all find ample space in which to improve ourselves.

Each morning after kneeling down and thanking God for the many blessings received, ask yourselves these questions: Do I deserve all I have received? Am I living, to the best of my ability, the laws of God as I understand them? Do I obey the Word of Wisdom that I may truly ask my Father in Heaven for health?

Do I pay my honest Tithes, that God can bless me temporally? for God hath said through the Prophet: "Bring ye all the tithes into the store-house, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10.

We are told that Life is what we make it; that is, if we will give God a chance (and do our little bit).

We can refer back to that old saying: "United, we stand; Divided, we fall." When united with the Elders, every member can do a "heap" of good towards teaching the beautiful laws received of God to help build up godly men and women.

Let us all teach "Mormonism", so called, by leading exemplary lives. Study, that you may teach others. Help to get a Book of Mormon in the homes of all the earnest seekers after truth that they may enjoy the same blessings as yourself; it should be in every christian home.

Love your neighbour as yourself and be kind to those who revile against you and persecute you for being a "Mormon", and, the Lord will pour out His blessings upon you.

---Elder Oral N. Beckstead, Durban---

"I will give unto you one of the keys of the mysteries of the Kingdom. It is an eternal principle that has existed with God from all eternity: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent will apostatize as God lives." ---Joseph Smith.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

"MISSION NEWS"

"Cumorah", Mowbray.

We take great pleasure in announcing a very busy and enjoyable month in the Cape District. The work is progressing and we feel to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord in our labours.

On the 2nd of July, District President Foyal L. Smith and Brother James Martin left on a country trip, visiting Stickland, Stellenbosch, Somerset West, Van Der Stel, and the Strand. They reported a very enjoyable and successful trip.

They returned on the 6th, which day was filled with mixed feelings: joy because of their return and sorrow because of Elder William B. Holland leaving us for Johannesburg, where he is to continue his labours.

The Saints are working with us and we feel that the work as a whole is progressing very nicely.

--Elder R. Earl Madsen, District Clerk--

"Ramah", Johannesburg.

The Elders and Saints of the Transvaal District feel to thank their Father in Heaven for His many blessings to them during the month just passed.

The Tracting is proving fruitful and many are being informed of the Restoration of the Gospel.

A farewell Social was held in honour of President Marion L. Allred at the home of Sister Hughes on June 28th.

On July 3rd, President Allred left for Durban, the first lap of his journey Zionward. The large crowd of Saints and Friends at the station to wish him Godspeed told of the place he had won in their hearts as a Servant of the Lord.

Elder Wm. B. Holland arrived here on July 13th. He states he is pleased with conditions as he finds them and is ready to push the Lord's work in this part of His vineyard.

On July 13th, a lecture on the "Great Pyramid" was given by Rev. Maxwell Carnson under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Association. It was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance.

The moving of Brother Hubert and family to Bloemfontein is regretted very much as they were very active here. We wish them every success in their new home and feel they will prove a power for good in that District.

President Reed H. Beckstead and Elder O. Layton Alldredge spent a very enjoyable week, July 16th to 20th, at Pretoria.

We regret very much to report the death of Brother Jacob H. De Villiers, who had arrived from Cape Town during the month. He died at the General Hospital during the night of July 25th, 1928.

The Saints join with the Elders in extending Gospel Greetings to all throughout the South African Mission.

---Elder O. Layton Alldredge, District Clerk---

Port Elizabeth District.

The past month has seemed to have flown by very rapidly, but has brought with it many blessings for which we are thankful.

It seems as though sickness is very prevalent throughout the Mission and Port Elizabeth is in time with the rest. Brother James Seaward had an attack of pneumonia. Shortly after administration by the Elders, a complete recovery resulted in answer to faith and prayer. Brother Louis Slabbert has been confined in the hospital for a short time and we are pleased to report that he is rapidly recovering from the attack of pleurisy he has had.

At this time we wish to pay respects to Sister K. E. Bateman who passed away peacefully on July 12th, 1928. She was baptized on July 24th, 1908 by Elder Orson M. Rogers and has served the Lord faithfully in her 20 years of membership. All who have had the privilege of her association know her by her true Christian heart. Even though she was afflicted with blindness, she continually strived to help her neighbour.

We also report the death of Brother Jan Willem Te Kortschot, father of Sister R. K. Doller, who passed away at Grahamstown, June 25th, 1928.

The usual monthly visit was paid to Uitenhage the later part of the month. A Testimony Meeting was held at the home of Bro. C. A. Smith and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Many new homes have been opened to the Gospel Message the last month and a number of Books of Mormon, as well as other Standard Works, have been distributed amongst the people.

We are busily engaged in preparations for a successful bazaar to be held under the auspices of the Relief Society, August the 4th.

We pray the Lord to bless all who are earnestly striving to know, live and teach the Truth.

--District President Sheldon R. Free--

Bloemfontein District.

The Elders and Saints of this District rejoice in the blessings which we have received during the past month and we feel that the work is progressing.

On July the 10th, Elder William B. Holland from the Cape District paid us a visit before going to Johannesburg.

We had the privilege of going to Karree Siding on the 14th of July to visit one of our friends. We received permission from the School Master to hold a meeting in the School House that evening. This gave us a splendid opportunity of explaining the Restoration of the Everlasting Gospel and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Before the close of the meeting, time was given for the asking of questions; the people seemed to be very interested in our Message.

On July the 21st, Brother Hubert arrived in Bloemfontein from Johannesburg. He has now decided to make this place his future home.

Our Tracting has been successful and the Investigators seem to be earnest.

---Elder Bertram J. Glynn, District Clerk---

Kimberley District.

Although very little Tracting and visiting has been done this month, we feel that our time spent in repairing the Mission Hall has been profitably spent for the betterment of the District. We have replaced the chairs with benches; we have added a platform and pulpit; laid a carpet down the center isle and accross the front, and we feel that Kimberley Mission Hall will now compare with the best in the Mission. Brother Campbell, who is a carpenter, was very obliging in letting us use his tools, as well as assisting us after his usual day's work.

There is an increase of attendance at our meetings and we feel that our "new" Mission Hall will greatly add to the spirit of our Meetings.

---Elder George C. Maw, Kimberley District---

Natal District.

The past month's labours have brought great joy and happiness to the Elders in Durban. The work of the Lord is steadily progressing and we feel that we have been greatly blessed.

During the past month we have had an increase in attendance at our meetings and our Saints and Friends are showing a good spirit in the work of the Lord.

A Cottage Meeting is being held for the benefit of the Saints out at Jacobs once each week under the direction of Brother Arthur Fagan.

The Saints and Friends of this District rejoiced over the visit with which they were favoured by Elders Marion L. Allred and Noel C. Knight prior to their leaving for their homes in America.

During the month we have also been favoured with a visit from Sister Hubert and family, who came down from Johannesburg for a short vacation.

-- Elder Rex C. Ellsworth, District Clerk--

East London.

Many interesting and happy experiences have been enjoyed by the Elders of East London. They are doing their level best to "sell East London Books of Mormon". As high as six a day were sold and some days they had to return to deliver books in order to satisfy some of their formerly met friends. Their hopes were finally reached and their goal won when they ended the month with a total of 86 sales for the month.

During the month the Sisters of the District met in their first Relief Society Meeting, where they discussed their plans for future work.

Sister Joseph Kozakiewicz gave birth to a fine son during the month; both are doing well.

Many interesting Church Services and Cottage Meetings have been held, and at each there has been very good attendance.

---Elder Ray Wm. Ellsworth, Dist. Clerk.

"Nature supplies all her children with brains, but it is evident that she can not compel them to use them." ---Detroit News.

COMPARATIVE REPORT OF MISSIONARY LABOURS FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31st 1928.

	MISC.	TRCT.	VIS. INV.	VIS. STS.	ATG. MTG.	STDY.	TOTAL	HRS. G.C.	NO. INV. VIS.	B. OFM. DIS.	TRACTS & PAMPH.
Cape											
F.L. Smith	63.5	44.5	88.5	50.5	56.5	43.5	347	71	97	7	365
R.E. Madsen	66	44	66.5	42.5	63	49	331	68	74	5	270
TRANSVAAL.											
R.H. Beekstead	85	30.5	41	64.5	54.5	38.5	314	57.5	55	6	267
W.B. Holland	71	26	41	60	55	42.5	295.5	44	50	1	147
C.L. Aldredge	73	32.5	45	63.5	46	47	306	50.5	35	4	187
B.C. Cutforth	78	32.5	41	68	46	57	322.5	29	28	1	133
FORT ELIZABETH.											
S.R. Free	60	13	111.5	51.5	50.5	69	355.5	78	102	14	132
A.E. Hughes	59	16.5	86	48.5	49.5	56.5	316	48	73	2	349
BLOEMFONTEIN.											
L.H. Duncan	64.5	39	50.5	61	51.5	46.5	313	68	50	6	343
B.J. Glynn	69.5	48.5	47.5	57	52.5	44.5	319.5	58	46	2	512
KIMBERLEY.											
C.W. Larson	28.5	7	30	28.5	36.5	29	159.5	28.5	36	1	133
G.C. Maw	40.5	8	34	29.5	36.5	38	186.5	30	38		146
NATAL.											
O.N. Beekstead	52	17	91	69	33	51	313	85	66	3	101
R.G. Ellsworth	65	27	87	61	37	60	337	80	61	2	83
EAST LONDON.											
W.L. Evans	69	57	63	51	42	67	349	83	52	56	537
R.W. Ellsworth	49	57	62	52	43	67	330	62	44	31	549
DISTRICT AVERAGE.											
Cape	64.7	44.3	77.5	46.5	59.7	46.3	339	69.5	85.5	6	312.5
Transvaal	76.7	30.4	42	64	50.2	46.2	309.5	45.3	42	3	183.5
Fort Elizabeth	59.5	14.8	98.7	50	50	62.8	335.8	63	87.5	8	239.5
Bloemfontein	67	43.8	49	59	52	45.5	316.3	63	48	4	427.5
Kimberley	34.5	7.5	32	29	36.5	33.5	173	29.3	37	.5	139.5
Natal	58.5	22	89	65	42.5	55.2	325	82.5	63.5	2.5	92
East London	59	57	62.5	51.5	42.5	67	339.5	72.5	48	43.5	593
MISSION AVERAGE.	60	31.4	64.4	52.1	46.5	51.0	306.4	60.7	58.8	9.6	284
MEETINGS HELD.											
Cape 64.		Transvaal 67.									
Natal 37.		East London 40.									
Fort Elizabeth 49.											
Bloemfontein 52.											
Kimberley 36.											
CHILDREN BLESSED:-											
Cape 1.											
Transvaal 1.											

Theodore R. Martin,
Mission Secretary.